

## CHATTANOOGA NEWS

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Count Cassin's story would have been a best seller eleven months ago.

In effect, Chile tells Uncle Sam she has received his letter and is much obliged for his interest.

The Irish haven't taken much stock in the war recently, but they still know how to fight each other.

England is learning to vary her bill of fare by the addition of horse meat as an item.

Following its adoption of democracy, China is now adopting a new system of spelling and writing.

A fool and his money are soon parted. And Von Papen got rid of most of his.

Germany is still pondering the problem of the psychological moment to hold an election.

Some one has suggested that, on account of the flu, Santa Claus may not come down the chimney.

It is all the same to the legislators, the government-elect would prefer to have important state offices filled with Roberts men.

Turkey is to be pushed out of Europe while Bulgaria is allowed to remain. It will puzzle some folks to understand the discrimination.

Paris is beginning to feel gay again, which makes it apparent that it was well that Mrs. Wilson went along with Woodrow.

The German situation is now described as being like the Kennedy case in Russia, but, we confess, does not make it very clear.

Santa Claus, the Red Cross and the memorial auditorium are all very much to the fore in Chattanooga this week.

Now that Britain no longer has the lions on her hands, perhaps she will be able to concentrate more attention on the peace conference.

A German woman threw a bottle at an American soldier in Cologne. If the bottle was empty, the insult should not be overlooked.

The food administration is willing that you buy all the sugar you want, but you may have trouble in getting it.

Although Christmas weather so far is not threatening, Senator Chapman has resumed the sawing of wood.

Perhaps Mr. McAdoo couldn't understand why a fellow should go on wearing half-soled trousers after the war is over.

An exchange insinuates that Col. Montgomery could tell instantly whether that Knoxville varmint is a wild cat or he could see it.

There is much talk about Mr. Wilson's lucky number 13. But our recollection is that there are fourteen at his peace points.

With suffrage established in England, an exchange is worried lest the "house of lords" should become a misnomer.

Gov. Whitman held out longer than Judge Charles E. Hughes before conceding his defeat, but the latter did very well.

Senator Kenyon, of Iowa, is one republican who apparently thinks a prize should be fixed on Michigan newspapers.

It is manifest that Mr. Vail and Mr. Mackay do not use the same glasses in the examination of government control and consolidation of oil.

May be Mr. Burleson hopes to popularize government control of telephones by reducing the rates. The same process might work with the railroads.

The fact that Carter Glass is from Lynchburg may convince the Chattanooga Tribune that he is in no way superior to the average run of southern men.

It would seem that since the republicans won a judgeship there was talk of the democratic legislature taking it away. But we doubt if such a partisan act might be secured of even a democratic legislature these days.

Of all things, the story that an English prisoner in the hands of the Germans could make his escape while disguised as a girl—ought to be corroborated.

By means of a newly-invented device, long conversations can be carried on over the same telephone almost at once. And still the women are wanting to vote!

While waiting for the assembling of the peace conference, some of our contemporaries are printing illuminating editorials on "Why Germany is so weak."

The new process of keeping meat by putting considerable advertising in the newspapers. A process whereby one could eat his meat and still have it around, however, awakens more interest.

Numerous demands upon the peace conference are being put forth on behalf of one foreign people or other by organizations with headquarters in New York. Representatives by people who actually live in the country, however, ought to have first consideration.

## PUNISHMENT FOR THOSE GUILTY

The president, in his speech in Paris Saturday, destroys any illusion that he has gone to Europe with sentimental inclinations regarding our enemies, or would spare them the punishment which they deserve. The president has used frequently the words "justice" and "mercy."

Some have misunderstood him, no doubt. He is of a long line of Presbyterian ancestors. "Woe to him through whom the offense cometh" is part, no doubt, of his religious principles.

The ex-kaiser must by this time know that they must face their accusers and answer to the wanton destruction wrought in their names. Whether individually responsible or figureheads must be decided.

The leaders of the Junker party in Germany, who were more than all others responsible for the war, must alike answer.

What the president has in mind as a punishment for these is not yet known. He has always separated them in his mind from the people of Germany, to whom he has always spoken as a friend. From the beginning he has taken the position that the people were the dupes of their rulers. That he would impose on Germany now merely "reparation" for the damages done to civil property, while the punishment as criminals would be wrought on their individual leaders is more than likely.

There are some difficult questions to be settled as to this loss to civilians. With the central powers separating into component parts, how shall the damages be apportioned? Of course, new countries like the Czechs, Slovaks, the Jugos-Slavs, Alsace-Lorraine, and others formerly part of Germany and its allies, would be able to present excellent reasons why they should not share.

Germany itself, as long as anarchy exists or food shortage is faced, will be in poor economic condition to shoulder such a new debt.

As to the ex-kaisers and their satellites, the princes, puppets, and those who have financially fattened on war-making, the question is more easily solved.

Punishment for criminals has a two-fold purpose. It is to free society from the menace of the guilty. It is also to exercise a restraining influence on the innocent, who might, except for such example, be induced to commit similar acts.

There must be an object lesson before the world in the treatment of such malefactors so that no other militaristic inclined country shall again run amok.

At the same time it must never be forgotten that it is for God to punish—not man. Therefore, punishment must not be merely the wreaking of vengeance. The very act of slaughter for slaughter's sake debases the human mind and leads it away from the gentle and merciful Master. That is the danger to human society in any extensive program of execution such as seems contemplated in some quarters. The Great Judge reserves to himself the verdict on the sins of the world. "Vengeance is mine," he has said, "not the property of judges of this world."

The method adopted should be such as to leave the proper impression on the minds of the enemy people, so that they may feel more poignantly their error and recognize in the allies, not vindictive and cruel enemies, but future friends.

We believe that the president will not yield to any sickly sentimentality, such as that which induces people to send bouquets of flowers to the worst of murderers, and at the same time he will desire such a course to be followed as shall not lose us an opportunity to reclaim Germany, or at least to make the effort. The president's separation of the people from the rulers was not persiflage. He meant it. And with his wise insight into the currents of thought within a nation, he probably is better advised now as to what should be our course for the sake of restoring all over the world a state of mind on which permanent peace alone may be built.

It goes without saying that unless there is a changed point of view as between nations no agreement at the peace table will maintain peace.

Chattanooga will be ready soon to announce her plans for financing and erecting a magnificent auditorium as a memorial to those of her sons who gave their lives in the country's service. It is hoped to have the details of the campaign threshed out with sufficient definiteness before being made public that it will not be necessary to halt the procession until the project is consummated. Those now in charge of the movement understand full well that Chattanooga has a reputation for doing things to sustain and may be depended upon to neglect no feature necessary to success. When everything is ready and the starting signal is given, let there be one mighty push, all together, to put the scheme over. And then let everybody enjoy the consciousness of duty well done while the neighbors are inquiring how Chattanooga does it. The old town is not acquainted with the word "fail."

It is perhaps natural that Gen. March should manifest some anxiety about the method of raising the next army, but that is not how a parliament question.

Of course, we are more or less interested in the peace settlement, but some attention must necessarily be devoted to the legislature and the forthcoming city election.

The colonel hasn't much more respect for the copyright than the Kaiser had for a treaty. He continues to swipe Mr. Bryan's planks and add them to the collection of "my policies."

Mr. Bryan assumes that suffrage and prohibition are a road as adopted already, a road in which Tennessee's senior senator does not seem to concur.

## CONSTRUCTIVE RECONSTRUCTION

Secretary Lane's reconstruction plan is the best we have seen. It is the most adaptable, most adjustable, most versatile and most complete. His report in which it is outlined is, as a contemporary suggests, "not a report, but a plea." It is an eloquent plea at that—and in our opinion unanswerable. As this paper has had occasion to observe heretofore, Secretary Lane is not a politician per se, but a constructive statesman. His proposals for facilitating the return of soldiers to civilian life are the climax of a record of achievement.

In providing ready opportunity for the nation's defenders, the secretary would make use of a neglected but badly needed resource of the nation—its unused lands. These require reclamation and preparation in one way or another to be made available for homes. To do this necessary preliminary work—a work which is quite varied in character—Secretary Lane would employ every discharged soldier who was otherwise unemployed. As the lands were made suitable for settlement, he would allot and sell them to soldiers or civilians on long time with easy payments.

Some of the possibilities—probabilities even—which can be used in half of this scheme are that it will relieve the anxiety of the soldier by providing him a job, prevent congestion of the labor market, promote a demand for the product of re-established industry, deter the movement to the cities, make millions of waste acres richly productive for immediately needed food crops, furnish homes for the unemployed, and stimulate the country's economic development. And the plan is beautifully flexible. It may be undertaken on a large or small scale as occasion may require. It is also flexible in that it easily adapts itself to the convenience of such of the returning soldiers as might need to avail themselves of its advantages. It will not interfere in the slightest with those who have other plans in mind. It is conceived with the view of purely voluntary choice. After having assisted in the reclamation work, the soldier may make a home on the land reclaimed or not as he prefers. He will receive pay for his labor in any event. If then he doesn't care for a home on the soil, others will eagerly snap up the opportunity.

Adoption of Secretary Lane's suggestion will mean more homesteads for America's increasing population and more food for the world's famishing hordes. It may constitute one feature or the whole of an adequate reconstruction program. It can be put into effect immediately. The country's present reclamation service can be used as the framework of an organization for inaugurating reforms. It is only necessary now that congress make an appropriation and authorize the undertaking of the work. Action should not be delayed.

**NEEDED IN TENNESSEE**  
Illinois voted, in the recent election, to hold a constitutional convention and is now trying to devise means for the nonpartisan election of delegates to compose it. All this notwithstanding some hundreds of thousands of Illinois voters are in France. The government of the state would have to go on in some fashion, it was reasoned, even if the boys never come back.

A campaign is just being launched in Missouri in behalf of a new constitution. The movement was initiated in Kansas City. Discussing it, the Kansas City Star uses arguments which fit the situation in Tennessee like a glove. "The state of Missouri needs a new constitution, not only for the best development of its cities, but for every interest of the state as well." Isn't the same thing true in Tennessee? "The present constitution was written almost a half century ago. It was written for the Missouri of half a century ago." Ditto as to Tennessee. And much more of the same sort.

The Star's editorial discussion is headed, "For a present day Missouri." That ought to be an inspiring motto. There are a few restless spirits who would rejoice in the anticipation of a present day Tennessee, equipped with a present day constitution. But their hopes are not high. When the matter was last up a year or so ago, somebody exclaimed "ah, it won't do to touch the sacred oracle while the boys are away," and straightway everybody scudded to cover. Massachusetts held a convention and amended her constitution while the war was on. Georgia amended hers. Arkansas held a convention, other states amended their constitutions, but Tennessee—not any, if you please.

Where ignorance is bliss, it is said to be folly to be wise. And we seem to be in blissful ignorance of the thickness of the shell that is growing over us. Our governor-elect thinks he may be able to puncture this shell in a few places, but we have our doubts—though interested. He will assuredly feel the need of a sledge when he sets about trying to reform the fossilized situation. We trust he may be able to suggest a few amendments that would have the double merit of having some chance of adoption and being of some benefit.

But Tennessee needs a new constitution worse than she needs nearly anything else. And nearly every sort of administrative reform is more or less contingent on securing one.

In the death of James A. La Ciere, one of the old-timers, well known to the older citizens, has passed away. For years he was in the railway mail service, then for a long period at the First National bank, and every theater-goer will always remember him as the genial and kindly door-keeper, who took the tickets at the audience passed in. Mr. La Ciere also for a considerable period was the assistant at the old public library. He made a host of friends and his possible away will cause many to remember kindly acts on his part.

In the capture of German prisoners, the American troops established the fact that the German soldiers are not so brave as they are supposed to be.

## RED CROSS CALLS ROLL

Will Chattanooga do her part to help the nation reach the goal—American 100 per cent. Red Cross? Roll call week opens today and the appeal goes out to every individual to renew his membership in the great league of mercy by the payment of one dollar. The appeal goes also to others who did not enlist last year. It is an every-member-of-the-family, every-citizen-of-the-common-wealth affair. And truly, when the goal is reached at the end of the week, it will be a fine testimony to the nation's appreciation of her soldiers to say that each person in the United States is a supporter of the Red Cross.

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Shortly after the Civil war, when the white people of the south were under a government not of their own choosing, there may have been ground for such a movement. At any rate, it was effective in bringing about an improvement, but it was a most dangerous expedient as shown by the abuse made of the organization in its later period, so that it came to be a mere implement for the wreaking of personal or factional grievances. Now our government is of our own choosing. There is law by which any injury may be redressed. The citizen is protected in all respects. Besides, we must remember that those against whom this organization is supposed to be directed have done noble and patriotic service in the war. The worst enemy of the south today is any man who would seek to stir up animosity between the races. It is sincerely to be hoped that no one will take this loose talk as a serious matter. Organization to oppose some imaginary thing may have just the same harmful effect. We look on the whole matter as a joke. Our people are too sensible to listen to for an instant to any such wild-mouthed agitators.

There doesn't seem to be any difference of opinion in Paris over the propriety of the president coming in person to the peace conference. Nor is France unwilling to acknowledge to the full extent the debt due this country for her happy intervention at the time which saved the world.

Perhaps the new Colombian order might be persuaded to take over some of those German African colonies upon which to colonize objectionable colored citizens of this country.

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(Chicago News.)  
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Some men can't head a procession even when they die.  
No man is ever great from his neighbor's point of view.  
Many a girl with teeth like pearls is as stupid as an oyster.  
A good many people fail to appreciate salvation because it is free.  
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**NIP IT IN THE BUD.**  
There is no occasion now for any new organization along the lines of the old Ku Klux Klan. It is a sign of mental weakness on the part of some one that such a thing is considered for a minute. Such a proposition means mob-law and nothing else. It is the very sort of thing the south must turn its countenance against.

Shortly after the Civil war, when the white people of the south were under a government not of their own choosing, there may have been ground for such a movement. At any rate, it was effective in bringing about an improvement, but it was a most dangerous expedient as shown by the abuse made of the organization in its later period, so that it came to be a mere implement for the wreaking of personal or factional grievances. Now our government is of our own choosing. There is law by which any injury may be redressed. The citizen is protected in all respects. Besides, we must remember that those against whom this organization is supposed to be directed have done noble and patriotic service in the war. The worst enemy of the south today is any man who would seek to stir up animosity between the races. It is sincerely to be hoped that no one will take this loose talk as a serious matter. Organization to oppose some imaginary thing may have just the same harmful effect. We look on the whole matter as a joke. Our people are too sensible to listen to for an instant to any such wild-mouthed agitators.

There doesn't seem to be any difference of opinion in Paris over the propriety of the president coming in person to the peace conference. Nor is France unwilling to acknowledge to the full extent the debt due this country for her happy intervention at the time which saved the world.

Perhaps the new Colombian order might be persuaded to take over some of those German African colonies upon which to colonize objectionable colored citizens of this country.

France clasped Woodrow to her breast—to her bosom even.

**POINTED PARAGRAPHS**  
(Chicago News.)  
Some men who take life easy escape arrest.  
Some men can't head a procession even when they die.  
No man is ever great from his neighbor's point of view.  
Many a girl with teeth like pearls is as stupid as an oyster.  
A good many people fail to appreciate salvation because it is free.  
A lot of things which a man is figuring out how they